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comes down to a matter of doing what you feel in your heart is the right thing to do for the people of this state, even though some people object and some people will be disappointed, some people will be upset, some people will be critical. But they don't have to make the choices. We do. We have to make the choices as how we're going to leave this body for the coming years. And that decision is going to have to be made today. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Jensen, followed by Senators Combs, Johnson, and Landis.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. First of all, I want to say I do so much appreciate the legislative process that we go through here. It is deliberate. It is painstaking. It is sometimes stressful. Many times stressful. I appreciate the appropriation process that we all go through. I will be voting to sustain the Governor's veto on the appropriation and the revenue package. I will be voting to override the Governor's veto on the education package. How did I come to that conclusion? I have great concern, not only about where we are this year, next year, but the out years. In the Legislature, we do a pretty good job of working on a biennium budget. I don't think we do a good job in looking at what is out ahead of us five years, ten years. Most businesses spend a great deal of time working on short-range, long-range projections. But we cannot continue the road that we're on in the next several years. I presented to you a sheet with the four main drivers of our spending, our revenue in the state. Medicaid. We are...we have increased our Medicaid expenditures. Since 1978, they have grown from \$79 million to now over \$1.2 billion. That represents an increase of 1,487 percent. In other words, the state appropriations for Medicaid has increased by almost 15 times since 1978, with an average increase of about 12 percent. The last few years, we've been at 14 percent. And I've stated here on the floor, if we maintain that, it will be 80 percent of our state budget. Then how do we fund education? How do we fund corrections? How do we fund K through 12? And we've had a task force this last year trying to work through those issues. It's very difficult, however, when the federal government has mandates upon you